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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS BILATERAL MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISES

DHAKA, MAY 11 -- A joint U.S. Government and Government of Bangladesh military training exercise, named Teak Buffalo, conducted with the two countries' Air Forces, just concluded. The goal of the exercise was to increase interoperability between the United States and Bangladesh Air Forces. As part of Teak Buffalo, aircraft from both the U.S. and Bangladesh conducted airdrop operations in Sylhet.

In addition, U.S. Air Force participants also had the opportunity to participate in a community outreach program at Eglal's ABC School in Dhaka. Members of the U.S. military handed out school supplies to all 60 students. The school includes students in kindergarten through fifth grade. "Our children come from poverty-level families," Zahirun Nessa, head teacher, said. "If the children were not in school, they would be begging on the street." Captain Gretchen Holden, project officer for the school supply drive and operations officer for Teak Buffalo, stated, "It is important for us to give something back. People at home were more than willing to donate necessary school supplies to make this event a success for the group."

This training is one of many joint activities conducted by the militaries of the United States and Bangladesh. This year there will be two additional training exercises, including one with the Bangladesh Army and one with the Bangladesh Navy. Our militaries have worked in partnership on humanitarian assistance and medical training and have conducted air and naval exercises as well. These exercises demonstrate the United States Government's commitment to regional security by promoting military-to-military relationships throughout Asia and the Pacific region.

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GR/ 2008

Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)